

The Oregon Statesman

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Stephen A. Stone, Managing Editor
Ralph Glover, Cashier
Frank Jaskoski, Manager Job Dept.

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THE REALITY IN RELIGION

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McSwiney, the Irish patriot, by his voluntary martyrdom may not have brought the independence of Ireland appreciably nearer. Although he aroused the interest and the sympathy of the entire world for him and his cause, it is likely that no practical political effect will result from his tragic death. But McSwiney may have done the world a great service nevertheless. The spectacle of a man voluntarily and deliberately laying down his life for a cause, for an ideal, with a reliance upon and a trust in God that for many weary weeks never for an instant wavered, is a spectacle that in these days of feeble religious convictions is very inspiring.

Men, spurred on by patriotism in the excitement and heat of conflict, have often sacrificed themselves upon the altar of their country or given up their lives for a cause dear to them. Men and women in numerous other ways have died exemplifying the highest qualities of human nature, but very few, if any, have matched the dramatic death of this Irish patriot, who, with a calm and sublime trust quietly and voluntarily opened the portals of eternity. God and immortality must have meant something more to him than a hope or a dream or a belief; they must have been a reality to him. If his death accomplished nothing for Ireland, McSwiney may have done a priestless religious service to the world by exciting the interest and arousing the religious sensibilities of the thoughtless and indifferent as no words could do.

In these days one hears less atheism avowed than a generation ago, but there is a prevalence of agnosticism among all classes. Although a man seldom can be found who will positively and confidently deny the existence of God, those who aver that they do not know, that they have no evidence that there is such a being are all too numerous; while the number of those who really know there is a God because they have come into real, personal relations with Him, because He has answered their prayers, transformed their lives, helped them in times of distress and trouble, and blessed them as only He can bless, is pitifully small.

This is an intensely practical and matter of fact age. People are no longer satisfied to take the ipse dixit of the church or of religious leaders about God and the great problems of the ages. To read in the Scriptures of the great and wonderful works of the Creator in the past does not bring unquestioning conviction to most men and women of this day. Even when this is reinforced by some knowledge of the wonderful physical universe and the natural laws established over and in it, evidencing a power and wisdom far beyond anything human, they are still asking for a demonstration that God is and that He not only directs the physical universe, but that He rules in the affairs of men, controlling the destinies of nations and of the individuals composing them.

Those interested in religion would do well to recognize this modern spirit and to understand that it is becoming very widespread — in fact, that it quite generally permeates all classes. This spirit can not be destroyed by decrying and denouncing it, nor by appealing to blind faith without sustaining experience or evidence. It can not be satisfied by references to the distant past, nor by pointing to glowing promises for the future. It is demanding some evidence now. It wants some demonstration of reality in the present, some tangible proof of the providence of God and the verities of Christianity and religion. And is not this demand quite natural and reasonable? Should not all religious organizations be making strenuous efforts to meet and satisfy it?

And such a demand for the tangible results of religion is justified by the New Testament itself, which promises the gift of great power and wisdom to those who become His disciples and keep His commandments. Jesus and His disciples and apostles preached more by deeds and works and spiritual power than by words; and they not only promised those to whom they brought the gospel the same power and ability to do these works, but they really baptized them with the same spirit with which they had been baptized, enabling them to "speak with tongues," and to do the other works of the spirit. What wonder, then, if many in this day are reverently asking: "What sign showest Thou that we may see and believe Thee?"

It is becoming daily more apparent that the world will not much longer be satisfied to be fed upon promises to be

redeemed in an uncertain and shadowy future. They are demanding the real substance of religion here and now or they will have none of it. And this attitude is not wholly unreasonable. The God who numbers the hairs of our heads and notes the sparrow's fall and who holds the infinite universe in his hand not only can show His power in our transformed lives, but He will do so if we faithfully perform the part that He has assigned to us in order that He may, under the laws He has established, manifest His love and spiritual power in us and through us. If we have no transformed lives and manifest no spiritual power, no spirit of Christ and do no works different in kind from our unregenerate neighbor, the world is entirely justified in declaring that the Spirit of God is not dominant in us and that we are none of His.

And a so-called spiritual power which does not result in anything practical or substantial, but spends itself in words, however eloquent, will not meet this rising demand for reality in religion. The Christianity preached and lived by Jesus and His disciples, as recorded in the New Testament, not only purified and redeemed the soul, but it healed the body, it helped in providing food and raiment and every legitimate material want; it met every need. It worked by a faith which is not a mere belief but a spiritual power. This is the Scriptural religion, and this is the religion that the future must develop if the world is to be redeemed and the kingdom of peace and good will to men is to come to reign upon earth.

Some big transactions in Salem real estate. There will never be a better time to buy.

In due time you will be thankful for the advice to buy Phez preferred stock; if you take the advice.

It is your duty to help the Salem slogan editor prove that this is the best strawberry county in the world; which it is. Do it Monday if possible, and not later than Wednesday.

The Oregon house of representatives at the 1919 session of the legislature provided for a committee to allot seats for the members of the 1921 session, the committee appointed for the purpose being Charley Childs of Linn county and Ben Sheldon of Jackson. In performing the appointed service that committee assigned the Marion county delegation to seats at the extreme northwest corner of the floor, as far away from the speaker's chair as it is possible to get. Marion county members are not mourning, however, as all corners of that floor are familiar to the present delegation from this county, and it would be a very distant corner of a very big room that would make it impossible for some of them to be heard and seen when interests worth fighting for are at stake.

Earl Race, city recorder, a long time ago constituted himself an employment agency—just because he saw the need, and there was no one else to do the work. He has done it absolutely without pay, and he has done it well. He has found work for thousands. His promptness last summer helped save the valuable flax crop. He sent men out in gangs to help pull the flax. The same lately with the onion crop. All this is said because Mr. Race deserves it, and a great deal more; and it is said, too, to call attention to the great need of a better equipment for the work. Mr. Race ought to be paid, by some one. He should have registers to keep the names of people needing workers. And registers to keep the names and addresses of people needing employment. There is work for every single person in Salem, and coming to Salem, and in the Salem district and coming here. More land ought to be cleared. More wood ought to be cut. Fences need fixing up. There are thousands of things needing to be done on the farms, and in the city, too. There has been a labor shortage. Now that there is a prospect of a surplus, this surplus ought to be taken care of, and used. It will thus be turned into an asset, and a valuable one. And the dictates of humanity will be served, besides. Have you a suggestion? How shall it be arranged? There has been much talk—but while others have talked, Mr. Race has worked. But the time has come when he needs help, and he can

FUTURE DATES.

- November 11 to 25—Red Cross roll call.
- November 14, Sunday—Red Cross roll call Sunday.
- November 15, Monday—W. C. T. U. drive for \$125,000 children's home benefit.
- November 16, Tuesday—Football, Salem high school vs. Dallas high school, at Salem.
- November 18, Thursday—"Middy and Shirts" day at high school.
- November 18, Thursday—Football, Willamette vs. College of Puget Sound, at Tacoma.
- November 19, Friday—Lecture by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Arctic explorer, at armory.
- November 19, Friday 8:15 p. m.—Vilhjalmur Stefansson lectures at armory.
- November 20, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Eugene high school, at Eugene.
- November 20, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Eugene high school, at Eugene.
- November 25, Thursday—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman college, at Salem.
- November 25, Thursday—Football, Salem high school vs. The Dallas high school, at Dallas.
- November 25, Thursday—Thanksgiving day.
- December 1, Wednesday—Entertainment by Great Shirley Concert company at armory, under auspices of American legion.
- December 6, Monday—Special school election.
- December 7, Tuesday—Annual election of Coeur d'Alene.
- December 8, Wednesday—Annual election of Commercial club.
- December 14, Tuesday—Annual election Salem Business Men's league.

turn this help into great value to this city and country.

TROLLEYS AND TRADE.

The trolley lines must adopt modern advertising methods in order to maintain and extend their business. That was the conclusion reached at the convention of the American Electric Railway association. Nobody loves the street car company, and now that the average family has a Lizzie, the folks who take to the trolley for pleasure are few. The traffic companies are not making any money. They have stopped paying dividends and it is necessary to do something to get back into popular favor. In other lines much is accomplished by shrewd advertising and the trolley companies find substantial benefits in publicity campaigns. First thing we know they will be advertising special trips, special trains, bargain days and other inducements. They will give away coupons with so many tickets and will be serving lunch and refreshments for passengers, who spend the day with them. The points of interest along the line will be exploited and a Barker with a megaphone will be carried for the entertainment of the tourists. There's a chance for the trolleys yet.—Exchange.

All of the above fits Salem conditions, excepting the statement that nobody loves the street car company.

Everybody in Salem does love the street car company; because, as The Statesman has said before, Salem has the best street railway system in the world for a city of Salem's size; and it is kept up to date as to repairs and it is well managed, and all the men connected with it are gentlemen, and faithful to duty and accommodating to the public.

And there has been no talk of raising the fare.

It is 5 cents, as of old. The Southern Pacific interests own the Salem street railway system, and they cannot be making any money; but they no doubt have hope—and perhaps they can afford to wait. The people of Salem hope they may soon get around to the point of extending the Salem lines out into the country in several directions—which was the intention before the war.

MAY STARTLE WORLD.

Is the world on the threshold of a great discovery that will revolutionize our social life as completely as did the invention of the steam engine after the Napoleonic wars?

This question is seriously discussed in Europe, and one of England's most notable physicists is credited by the London Spectator with saying that it is not impossible such a discovery may be made almost at once.

The majority of people, scrambling for daily bread, don't have time to devote to matter of this kind. They have to leave scientific subjects to men who have some private means or who have "angels" to keep them in food and clothing while they conduct their experiments. Therefore when they read of promised marvels they shrug their shoulders, and if they are Americans they declare they are from Missouri.

Yet the scientists are actually talking about something which will make the world practically independent of coal and petroleum. They refer to radioactivity and invite our attention to the fact that it has "raised the veil from the internal mysteries of the atom and has indicated, as no remote possibility, the tapping of a supply of energy as much beyond that of fuel as the latter is beyond "brute energy." While the scientists are hunting for an atomic detonator which will enable us to use water for fuel, less learned men bid the people expect vast changes within a comparatively short time. The development of aircraft will bridge the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, electrically driven trains

will cross the continent at two miles a minute, glass or rubber motor roads will give us magnificent highways and submarine liners will plough the seas independent of wind or weather. There are great times coming.

A REGULAR HUMAN BEING.

No great harm can come to a country when its chieftain in the hour of his greatest victory reverently exclaims:

"I do not exult. Rather, I pray to God that he make me capable of playing my part."

Senator Harding implies that the result is not a personal honor, but a call to duty, and he seeks Divine assurance and aid that the hopes and expectations of the American people be not disappointed. It is a fine thing when a man is so strong he can stand alone; but it is more comforting when he seeks the fostering hand of the Almighty and the counsel of his fellows. He seems more like a regular human being. He inspires more confidence and one is not constantly wondering what would happen if the wind blew.—Los Angeles Times.

FEZ LESS POPULAR IN TURKEY.

With the crumbling of Turkish authority and influence, the fez, the badge which all Turkish subjects, Christians, Jews and Turks alike, are supposed to wear, is rapidly disappearing.

Although the Moslems still wear their fezzes in the streets, they no longer cling to them slavishly indoors. Soon the Turks may be wearing hats with brims in Constantinople.

Moslems in other parts of Turkey insist the Mohammedans in the capital lost their religion long ago through their desire to imitate the infidels.

As all heads must remain covered in the mosques and it is quite impossible to touch one's forehead to a prayer rug while wearing a hat with a brim, the fez is indispensable to the faithful Moslem, who prays daily to Mecca. Even military and naval

officers must wear visorless caps. The fez still prevails in Anatolian cities. In fact it is unsafe for foreigners to wear a hat in many of them.—Constantinople letter in Washington Star.

PARIS LURES AMERICANS.

PARIS, Nov. 12.—Americans to the number of 27,000 were permanent residents of Paris on October 1, 1920, according to official figures furnished by police headquarters. This is the largest foreign colony in Paris, the Italian, Swiss and British leading the Americans in the order named. The figures do not include tourists.

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Regular \$125.00 9x12 Wilton Rug, now.....\$107.00	Regular \$19.75 9x12 Grass Rug, now.....\$14.75
Regular \$105.00 9x12 Body Brussels Rug, now.....\$79.50	Regular \$12.50 3x6 Axminster Rug, now.....\$9.85
Regular \$75.00 9x12 Axminster Rug, now.....\$63.75	Regular \$7.50 27x54 Axminster Rug, now.....\$5.95

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